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LOWER BOND SOUGHT

Bugmen's relatives vouch for them

By MARY ANN KUHN

An Alexandria woman who is "well acquainted" with four of the five men accused in the break-in at the Watergate offices of the Democratic National Committee is willing to take the responsibility of seeing that they appear in court when required in the event they are released from D. C. Jail.

Maria Elena B. Moffett, of 210 Giggon-st, said she is the daughter of Bernard L. Barker, one of the defendants. According to her affidavit filed in D. C. Superior Court yesterday, Mrs. Moffett said she earns more than $20,000 a year as an employe of the Prudential Insurance Co. of America in Bethesda.

LOWER BOND ASKED

Her affidavit was filed in conjunction with a defense motion seeking reduction of bond for the five men. Defense lawyer Joseph Rafferty yesterday asked Judge James Belson to reconsider the high bond he set Saturday when the five were arraigned. The defendants have been held in D. C. Jail unable to post the bond. The judge said he will hold a hearing tomorrow and decide then whether to grant the defense motion.

Mrs. James W. McCord Jr. of Rockville, who is married to a fifth defendant in the case, is willing to take custody of her husband and assume responsibility for his court appearances if the judge decides to reduce his $30,000 bond, the defense motion said. The four others are being held on $50,000 bond.

The defense argued that none of the five has a record, all are employed and do not present a danger to the community. It said the high bond was set to assure the judge that the defendants would appear in court as required.

"In view of the willingness (of Mrs. Moffett and Mrs. McCord) to act as (custodians) for the (defendants), the court should be reasonably assured that the (defendants) will appear as required," the motion said.

After conducting interviews with the five defendants, the D.C. Bail Agency recommended that the men be released on the condition they are placed in the custody of a suitable person.

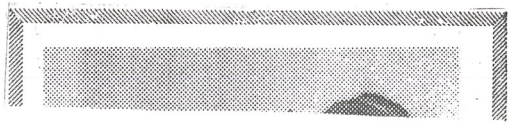
Moments before Judge Belson decided to schedule a hearing tomorrow on the bond reduction motion, Mr. Rafferty told him that Mr. Barker, 55, a Miami real estate broker, "is quite ill." He said his client was scheduled to have a "serious operation" performed on his hands tomorrow or Friday at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Coral Gables, Fla.

ARTHRITIS

"It is an operation on both hands," Mr. Rafferty said. "He has a serious arthritis problem. The doctors have to scrape his hands. His hands will be completely immobilized for three weeks after the operation."

According to court papers, Mrs. Moffett has known the defendant, Eugenio Martinez, 49, "for many years." He is a real estate broker for her father's real estate business, the papers said, earning $1,000 a month. He also completed two years at the University of Havana.

The papers also said that another defendant, Frank Fiorini, of Miami, earns $150 a week with the Hampton Roads Salvage Co. buying and selling marine equipment. The D.C. Bail Agency report said he has been with the company for 18 years. He was formerly employed with the same company in Havana, the report said. He also completed 2½ years at the College of William and Mary, it said.

The D. C. Bail Agency report on Virgilo Romon Gonzalez said he has been married for 24 years, lives in Miami with his wife and daughters, and is a "self-employed" house painter making $175 a week. It said he was a barber in Cuba but left in 1959.

From Mr. Barker's bail report and other court papers, it was learned he had two years of education in civil engineering, has lived in Miami since 1960 and was a real estate salesman before obtaining a broker's license and starting up his own real estate business. It said he was a U.S. Air Force captain during World War II, was shot down inside Germany and was a prisoner of war for 17 months.